

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 021870

EXDIS ;

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SP, MO

SUBJECT: US ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO

REF.: STATE 015808

1. SPANISH AMBASSADOR ALBA WAS BRIEFED JANUARY 27 BY IBERIAN DIRECTOR LUKENS AS FOLLOW-UP TO SISCO-ALBA MEETING ON JANUARY 21 (REFTEL). FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO ALBA'S QUESTIONS AT EARLIER MEETING (PARA 4, REFTEL).

2. RE ASHEVILLE-CLASS LAUNCHERS, US IS NOT CONSIDERING SALE TO MOROCCO. REGARDING MISSILES, US EARLIER SOLD AND DELIVERED TO MOROCCO 180 SIDEWINDER AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES AND SEVERAL HUNDRED LAW ANTI-TANK WEAPONS. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE OFFERED TO SELL MOROCCO TOW AND DRAGON ANTI-TANK MISSILES AND VULCAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS. IF GOM WANTS TO BUY THESE WEAPONS, DELIVERY WOULD BE AT NORMAL LEAD TIMES OF ABOUT TWO YEARS. FINALLY, WITH REGARD TO TANK AMMUNITION, TANK SALES ARE ACCOMPANIED BY NORMAL SUPPLIES OF SPARE PARTS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING CONVENTIONAL

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AMMUNITION.

3. ALBA MADE CAREFUL NOTES ON NUMBERS AND TYPES OF WEAPONS. HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY INTERESTED ABOUT WHETHER EARLIER MISSILE SUPPLIES HAD BEEN ON GRANT OR

CREDIT BASIS AND APPEARED REASSURED WHEN TOLD THESE HAD BEEN CASH SALES (FYI - GOS INTEREST IN US GRANTS OR CREDITS FOR MOROCCO MAY ARISE FROM ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION THAT SUCH FIGURES CONSTITUTE LIMIT ON PROVISION OF US ARMS. BUT AS SISCO EXPLAINED ON JANUARY 21, MAJOR PORTION OF FUTURE MOROCCAN ARMS PURCHASES WILL BE PAID IN CASH (PARA 2C, REFTEL). END FYI).

4. AS INSTRUCTED PARA 7, REFTEL, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON INFORMATION PROVIDED ALBA IN THESE TWO MEETINGS IN HIGH-LEVEL BRIEFINGS FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY, STRESSING NEED FOR UTMOST DISCRETION. KISSINGER

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